

Flowers and leaves



# Incentse Tree

Height: 5-15m

Flowering Period: April-May

Fruiting Period: June-July

## Do you know the origin of the name Hong Kong?

Incentse Tree, also known as Agarwood, is native to South China. It was discovered that when the tree is injured, it produces an aromatic resin in response to fungal infection. The resin produced can be processed into invaluable incense. The collection of resinous wood started more than a century ago. It is heavily traded in the forms of incense, traditional Chinese medicines and other products. The Aberdeen Harbour, also known as 'Little Hong Kong', was the major trading port. The popularity of the trade has given Hong Kong its name, which translates literally as 'Fragrant Harbour'.



Incentse Tree Flowers



Incentse Tree Fruit



## A Curious Way of Seed Dispersal

The unusual-looking seed of Incentse Tree resembles a caterpillar dangling off a length of silk from a twig. A study has found that the appearance of the seed attracts wasps that feed on caterpillars. The wasp snatches and carries the 'caterpillar' away. However, as soon as it realises it is not a caterpillar, it abandons it mid-air. Such an evolutionary strategy allows the seed to travel a greater distance from its parent tree than it would otherwise.

Incentse Tree seeds when they are ripe and ready to fall



Wasp preying on the seed

## Protecting the Incentse Tree

Incentse Tree has been listed a protected species in mainland China, Hong Kong and globally. Due to a small population size, it has become very difficult to see them in the wild. Poaching of Incentse Tree is illegal, however, poachers are willing to take the risk for impressive monetary rewards. On-going poaching is bringing the species closer than ever to extinction.

By removing any suspicious marking on trees, you could increase the chance of survival of our beloved Incentse Tree.



A suspicious sign such as string tied to a tree

The mark of an Incentse Tree damaged by poachers

